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Chrono*

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Quick comments from having read your Brazil draft quickly.

It's going to make a fine NIE. But, once again, a strong case for not sending along a big complex estimate until the author has worked out and attached his draft key judgments -- even if only in very rough fashion. Why such a case? Because the cold reader doesn't know what "the estimate" is: that is, the chief so-what that the author wishes the NIE to communicate. The reader reads on and on, and in this case lots of interesting things about Brazil. But just what are we communicating to our consumers of a unique and policy-relevant nature, and why should they read the NIE?

My quick reading may have done your draft a disservice, but I find the paper a particularly unique, sophisticated, nourishing, and so-what one for our consumers -- from pp. 38 ("The Coming Year") onward. Before p. 38 I get the feeling of too much description, too much detail, too much of a windup for the pitch you deliver, beautifully, later on. I should think you could make the necessary points up front in much shorter compass, perhaps moving all or much of your Political Dynamic section (pp. 16-37) to annex.

Your Key Judgments, when they come, can take care of a lot of these problems I have. In those KJ's, you could set the stage in 2 paras., at most, and then proceed to give the guts of what you say on pp. 38 ff.

Also, because of the length and necessary complexity of the paper, I think it's a good candidate for publishing in two versions. Hence, once again, great care to be given to the drawing up of the KJ's -- as a

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sophisticated, self-contained, and fairly brief essay which tells the senior consumers how to think about Brazil.

At the end of the paper, is there not more you can say about the consequences for the US?

See my scribble, p. 37, which asks that you explain a little more convincingly why Brazil is so unique -- that is, why with all its ills and possible pitfalls, there isn't more of a contingency potential for radicalism and extreme pockets of instability. See also my assorted other scribbles.

Ole for a good job.

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